



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

LUCILLE E. DAVY  
*Commissioner*

April 22, 2008

TO: Deans, New Jersey Approved Teacher Education Programs  
County Superintendents  
Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Robert R. Higgins, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Licensure and Credentials

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert R. Higgins".

SUBJECT: Revised Memo on Early Childhood Praxis Test and Other Recently Adopted  
Praxis Tests

The State Board of Education recently adopted new Praxis tests and respective qualifying scores. These include tests and scores for early childhood, replacement or updated tests for a number of the sciences, and basic skills tests in reading, writing, and mathematics for vocational certificates whose applicants do not possess a bachelor's or associate's degree. These new tests and their qualifying scores are listed at the end of this memo.

These tests are generally required of applicants as of December 1, 2007. However, there will be grandfathering for students enrolled in approved teacher preparation programs, as described below.

### **The Early Childhood Praxis II Test for P-3 Certification**

For the purpose of certification, the ETS Early Childhood Content Knowledge test (0022) and passing score became effective beginning December 1, 2007.

For students in New Jersey college-approved Preschool through Grade 3 programs who complete their programs for the P-3 endorsement by August 31, 2008 and who apply for certification by October 31, 2008, the New Jersey State Department of Education will honor the passing scores of those who have taken the Elementary Content Knowledge test (code 0014) prior to August 31, 2008. This grandfathering provision includes students who are enrolled in approved programs leading to dual certification in P-3 and Elementary Teacher in Grades K-5 endorsements.

All students who complete approved programs for the P-3 endorsement on or after September 1, 2008, will need to pass the Early Childhood Content Knowledge test (0022) with a score of 159 or higher to be eligible for the P-3 endorsement.

Additionally, please note that applicants pursuing alternate route certification through the modified alternate route P-3 approved college programs are required to pass the early childhood test beginning December 1, 2007.

According to the ETS website,

“The Praxis Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test is designed to assess the content knowledge prospective teachers of young children must have in order to support children’s learning in the content areas. The test consists of 120 multiple choice questions, each of which pertains to one of six content areas: language and literacy; mathematics; social studies; science; health and physical education; and creative and performing arts. Questions will assess whether the test taker knows the major concepts, skills, and tools of inquiry in the content areas; can apply knowledge of the content areas in the context of children’s learning; knows the structure of the content areas; and knows how the content areas are interrelated. The test does not emphasize knowledge of pedagogy, though some questions are framed in the context of children’s knowledge.”

For additional information on the Early Childhood Content Knowledge test, visit: [www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/pdf/0022.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/pdf/0022.pdf).

### **Science Praxis Tests Recently Approved by the State Board**

These tests update and replace existing versions of similar tests for these subject areas.

- Prior versions of these tests will no longer be available as of December 1, 2007.
- All traditional route and alternate route candidates who apply for certification on or after December 1, 2007, and who have not previously passed a Praxis test for their certification area will be required to pass the new Praxis test.
- Candidates who apply for certification on or after December 1, 2007, who have already taken and passed a Praxis test for their area prior to December 1, 2007, and who are deemed academically eligible for the certificate will have met the test requirement.
- The following list specifies the required tests for each science endorsement:

Teacher of Biological Science	Biology: Content Knowledge test 0235 General Science: Content Knowledge test 0435
Teacher of Chemistry	Chemistry: Content Knowledge test 0245 General Science: Content Knowledge test 0435
Teacher of Earth Science	Earth Science: Content Knowledge test 0571 General Science: Content Knowledge test 0435
Teacher of Physics	Physics: Content Knowledge test 0265 General Science: Content Knowledge test 0435

Teacher of Physical Science

Chemistry: Content Knowledge test 0245

Physics: Content Knowledge test 0265

General Science: Content Knowledge test  
0435

**Basic Skills Tests in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics**

As of December 1, 2007, anyone who does not have a bachelor's or associate's degree who completes an application for a vocational certificate must pass each of these basic skills tests.

**Summary of New and Updated Praxis Tests and Their Qualifying Scores**

The following table lists all new or updated tests and their qualifying scores. If you have further questions about these new tests, please contact the following email address: [praxis@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:praxis@doe.state.nj.us). Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**NEW AND UPDATED PRAXIS TESTS AND QUALIFYING SCORES**

<b><u>TEST</u></b>	<b><u>QUALIFYING SCORE</u></b>
Biology: Content Knowledge test 0235	152
Chemistry: Content Knowledge test 0245	152
Early Childhood: Content Knowledge test 0022	159
General Science: Content Knowledge test 0435	152
Earth Science: Content Knowledge test 0571	153
Physics: Content Knowledge test 0265	141
PPST: Reading test 0710	175
PPST: Writing test 0720	173
PPST: Math test 0730	174

L:/RH/Correspondence/Revised P3 and Other New Praxis Tests.doc

c: Members, State Board of Education

Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

Willa Spicer

Senior Staff

Diane Shoener

Erika Leak

Kim Belin

Kathryn Forsyth

Certification Officers

Alternate Route Program Directors and Coordinators

NJ Lee Group

Garden State Coalition of Schools